



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450  
[www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov)

MOORE & VAN ALLEN PLLC  
P.O. BOX 13706  
RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK NC 27709

COPY MAILED

JUL 10 2008

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of :  
Nnochiri N. Ekwuribe et al :  
Application No. 10/594,046 : DECISION ON PETITION  
Filed: September 25, 2006 : UNDER 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3)  
Attorney Docket No. 014811-673.119US :

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3), filed September 7, 2007 to accept an unintentionally delayed claim under 35 U.S.C. §120 for the benefit of priority to the prior-filed nonprovisional applications set forth in the concurrently filed amendment.

The petition is **DISMISSED**.

A petition for acceptance of a claim for late priority under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) is only applicable to those applications filed on or after November 29, 2000. Further, the petition is appropriate only after the expiration of the period specified in 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(ii). In addition, the petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) must be accompanied by:

- (1) the reference required by 35 U.S.C. § 120 and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(i) of the prior-filed application, unless previously submitted;
- (2) the surcharge set forth in § 1.17(t); and
- (3) a statement that the entire delay between the date the claim was due under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(ii) and the date the claim was filed was unintentional. The Director may require additional information where there is a question whether the delay was unintentional.

The petition does not comply with item (1)

37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(i) requires that any nonprovisional application claiming the benefit of one or more prior-filed copending nonprovisional applications must contain or be amended to contain a reference to each such prior-filed application, identifying it by application number (consisting of the series code and serial number) and indicating the relationship of the applications. The relationship between the applications is whether the subject application is a continuation,

divisional, or continuation-in-part of a prior-filed nonprovisional application. An example of a proper benefit claim is: "This application is a continuation of Application No. 10/---, filed---." A benefit claim that merely states: "This application claims the benefit of Application No. 10/---, filed---," does not comply with 37 CFR 1.72(a)(2)(i) since the proper relationship, which includes the type of continuing application, is not stated. Also, the status of each nonprovisional parent application (if it is patented or abandoned) should also be indicated, following the filing date of the parent nonprovisional application. See MPEP Section 201.11, Reference to Prior Nonprovisional Applications.

The amendment is not proper because this application is a National Stage Entry under 35 USC 371 of International Patent Application No. PCT/US2005/009325 filed on March 22, 2005.

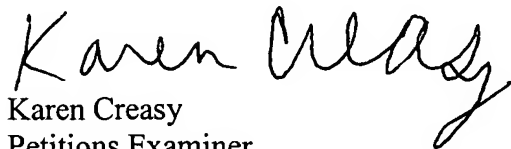
Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

By mail:                      Mail Stop PETITIONS  
                                  Commissioner for Patents  
                                  Post Office Box 1450  
                                  Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

By hand:                     Customer Service Window  
                                  Mail Stop Petitions  
                                  Randolph Building  
                                  401 Dulany Street  
                                  Alexandria, VA 22314

By fax:                      (571) 273-8300  
                                  ATTN: Office of Petitions

Any questions concerning this matter may be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3208.



Karen Creasy  
Petitions Examiner  
Office of Petitions